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Message Text

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TOSEC 203

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:OEXC
SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION: SELECTION OF
US MUSEUMS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON
1. THE PRC HAS AGREED TO SIX-MONTH, TWO-CITY TOUR FOR
ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION, WITH OPENING DATE PLANNED FOR
DECEMBER THIS YEAR. ON QUESTION OF WHICH MUSEUMS WILL
PARTICIPATE, WE CONSULTED LEONARD GARMENT, WHO REAFFIRMED
LAST YEAR'S WHITE HOUSE DECISION THAT EXHIBITION WOULD
OPEN AT NATIONAL GALLERY IN WASHINGTON. METROPOLITAN
MUSEUM OF NEW YORK HAD EXPECTED TO GET SHOW SECOND, BUT
WITH TWO CITY LIMITATION, DISPLAY IN BOTH WASHINGTON AND
NEW YORK WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE. WE EXPECT THAT SELECTION
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OF NATIONAL GALLERY AS FIRST AND ONLY EAST COAST SITE WILL

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DRAW COMPLAINT FROM MET.

2. IN CONSIDERING SELECTION OF SECOND MUSEUM WE NARROWED CHOICE TO LOS ANGELES OR KANSAS CITY, ELIMINATING NINE OTHER APPLICANTS ON GROUNDS OF SIZE, SECURITY, LOCATION, OR EXPERIENCE. SINCE NEARLY ALL HAVE SUPPORT FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHER PROMINENT LOCAL LEADERS, WE MAY EXPECT PROTESTS WHEN DECISION MADE PUBLIC, REGARDLESS OF MUSEUM SELECTED. LOS ANGELES WOULD BE CUSTOMARY CHOICE IN SITUATION LIKE THIS AND WOULD DRAW GREATER CROWDS. KANSAS CITY WOULD ATTRACT VISITORS FROM WIDER GEOGRAPHICAL AREA, AND HAS INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS

CHINESE ART COLLECTION AND CURATOR FAVORABLY KNOWN TO PRC. ON BALANCE WE INCLINED TOWARD KANSAS CITY, SEEING MERIT IN INVOLVING MIDWEST -- AS AN AREA INFLUENTIAL IN FOREIGN POLICY BUT WHICH HAS LITTLE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE EVIDENCE OF OUR DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIP WITH PRC. WHITE HOUSE (GARMENT) SELECTS KANSAS CITY.

3. IN ABSENCE OF OTHER GUIDANCE, WE WILL PROCEED ON BASIS WHITE HOUSE DETERMINATION TO SELECT NATIONAL GALLERY AND KANSAS CITY AS SITES FOR PRC ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION. RUSH

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